

Farm Labor

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NUMBER OF WORKERS - DECEMBER
WAGE RATES - JANUARY 1

December Work Force Declined Seasonally

The national farm labor force for the week of December 21-27 dropped 18 percent below the November survey week and 3 percent below the December 1968 survey week. The estimated 3,495,000 total workers consisted of 2,842,000 farm operators and unpaid family members together with 653,000 hired workers. The number of hired workers was down 32 percent from November.

The 1969 annual average of 4,582,000 farm workers was 3 percent below 1968. Family workers for 1969 averaged 3,428,000 persons, 3 and 6 percent below 1968 and 1967, respectively.

The hired farm worker force, averaging 1,153,000 persons in 1969, was 5 percent below 1968 and 8 percent below 1967. This continuing reduction in the hired work force reflects further mechanization in handling high labor use commodities and in improved techniques.

Farm workers on reporting farms worked an average of 32.7 hours during the December work week, 3.7 hours less than a month earlier. Farm operators averaged 33.3 hours, other family members 29.1 hours, and hired workers 34.1 hours of farm work during the survey week, which included the Christmas holiday.

Farm Wage Rates Up 10 Percent During 1969

The 1969 annual composite hourly rate for farm workers averaged \$1.33, an increase of 10 percent over 1968. The rate per hour without room or board averaged \$1.58 in 1969, also an increase of 10 percent over the previous year. Wage rates for other hiring arrangements indicate corresponding increases. The annual average wage rates for 1968 and 1969 are shown by States and Regions on pages 9 and 10.

The January 1, 1970 composite hourly rate, at \$1.50, was up 9 percent from January 1, 1969. The average cash rate per hour without room or board, at \$1.67 per hour was up 6 percent from a year earlier. Pay rates by the day, week and month were up similarly. These rates represent cash payments only with no allowances for values of housing, food, or other items furnished in addition to cash wages.

Winter Weather Curtails Farm Work Activity

Farmers from the Great Plains eastward knew winter had arrived with all its fury. The Northeast States were hit particularly hard by heavy snow and record low temperatures in many locations. The Pacific Coast was lashed by high winds and heavy rainfall. Most farm work consisted of maintenance and livestock care.

Very little corn remains to be harvested in the Corn Belt. A few soybeans were still in the field in the Southeastern States. Sugarcane harvest was active in Florida. Cotton harvest was in the scrapping stage in most growing areas with only modest amounts remaining in Texas and Arizona.

Citrus harvest was active in California, Florida, Arizona, and Texas although slowed by the Christmas Holiday and weather conditions.

Vegetable harvest in Florida was slowed by cool temperatures and cold winds. Arizona and California winter vegetable harvest continued in full swing.

Farm employment represents the number of family and hired labor working during the survey week. Family labor includes farm operators working on farms 1 hour or more plus other family members working 15 hours or more without receiving cash wages during the survey week. These data should not be confused with data published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) derived from the Current Population Survey (CPS). The BLS data are derived from a household survey where each member 16 years of age and older is classified as performing farm or nonfarm work on the basis of major activity during the survey week.

Farm employment and indexes, December 1969, with comparisons, United States

Item	Annual average 1967	Annual average 1968	December 24-30, 1967	December 22-28, 1968	December 21-27, 1969
FARM EMPLOYMENT 1/					
(Thousands)					
Total	4,903	4,745.8	3,701	3,617.9	3,494.8
Family labor	3,650	3,532.4	3,026	2,945.9	2,841.9
Hired labor	1,253	1,213.4	675	672.0	652.9
INDEXES 2/					
(1910-14=100)					
Total	36	35	36	36	34
Family labor	36	35	36	35	34
Hired labor	37	36	39	39	37
(1957-59=100)					
Total	66	63	66	65	63
Family labor	66	64	66	64	62
Hired labor	64	62	67	67	65

1/ Employment during the last full calendar week ending at least one day before the end of the month.

2/ Monthly indexes are adjusted for seasonal variation.

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Farm wage rates and indexes, January 1, 1970, United States

Item	Annual average 1968	January 1, 1968	January 1, 1969	January 1, 1970
FARM WAGE RATES				
Composite rate per hour 1/	\$ 1.21	\$ 1.24	\$ 1.38	\$ 1.50
Per month with house	283	269	294	318
Per month with board and room	216	209	230	251
Per week with board and room	52.50	47.75	53.25	57.75
Per week without board or room	66.50	60.50	68.50	75.50
Per day with house	8.20	8.10	9.20	10.00
Per day with board and room	9.30	8.70	9.50	10.40
Per day without board or room	9.90	9.30	10.60	11.60
Per hour with house	1.28	1.15	1.28	1.38
Per hour without board or room	1.44	1.42	1.57	1.67
INDEXES 2/				
(1910-14=100)	931	870	965	1,050
(1957-59=100)	160	150	166	181

1/ Weighted average of all rates on a per hour basis. Composite rate does not include piece rate workers.

2/ Indexes are adjusted for seasonal variation.

Farm Work: Weekly hours worked per worker

State and division	Average for reporting farms - week of November 23-29, 1969				
	Farm operators	Other family members 1/	All family 1/	Hired workers	All workers 1/
----- Hours -----					
Maine	51.8	34.1	47.3	34.6	43.2
N. H.	52.5	33.7	48.1	34.5	42.2
Vt.	55.6	34.8	48.8	46.7	48.0
Mass.	51.8	35.6	47.0	41.2	44.7
R. I.	34.9	18.0	31.5	53.5	37.8
Conn.	47.9	29.3	42.4	46.3	43.4
N. Eng.	51.7	33.4	46.5	40.9	44.5
N. Y.	53.0	32.2	46.2	40.4	44.4
N. J.	36.5	31.6	35.4	35.3	35.4
Pa.	45.7	32.0	41.6	33.1	40.0
M. Atl.	48.1	32.1	43.1	37.2	41.6
Ohio	31.5	27.5	30.6	30.1	30.5
Ind.	29.2	24.3	28.3	26.1	28.0
Ill.	29.7	32.4	30.1	31.6	30.3
Mich.	39.6	34.7	38.3	29.7	36.4
Wis.	50.2	29.6	41.8	35.2	40.8
E. N. Cent.	35.9	29.7	33.7	31.1	33.7
Minn.	38.5	29.2	35.6	32.0	35.3
Iowa	40.8	28.6	37.7	34.3	37.3
Mo.	31.9	30.3	31.6	28.7	31.2
N. Dak.	29.4	31.8	29.9	29.5	29.9
S. Dak.	38.8	27.7	35.5	31.5	35.1
Nebr.	37.0	31.0	35.5	31.4	35.1
Kans.	35.4	30.2	34.2	30.0	33.6
W. N. Cent.	36.4	29.7	34.6	31.3	34.4
Del.	32.1	27.8	30.9	33.4	31.7
Md.	36.2	35.2	35.9	35.8	35.9
Va.	31.6	30.1	31.3	30.2	31.0
W. Va.	32.1	28.1	31.2	26.2	30.4
N. C.	25.6	27.9	26.1	28.1	26.6
S. C.	30.0	26.9	29.3	25.6	27.9
Ga.	29.6	27.5	29.1	25.8	27.9
Fla.	31.6	30.6	31.4	36.4	35.3
S. Atl.	29.1	28.6	29.0	33.2	30.2
Ky.	29.2	29.4	29.2	25.9	28.3
Tenn.	24.7	26.9	25.1	24.0	24.9
Ala.	25.8	24.6	25.6	25.4	25.5
Miss.	24.5	21.6	23.9	24.1	24.0
E. S. Cent.	26.2	26.0	26.1	24.9	26.0
Ark.	22.5	27.5	23.1	22.0	22.8
La.	24.7	27.1	25.2	26.4	25.5
Okla.	33.9	27.9	32.5	25.7	31.1
Texas	32.9	32.3	32.8	31.7	32.4
W. S. Cent.	30.2	29.8	30.0	28.6	29.6
Mont.	35.3	30.9	34.1	40.1	35.1
Idaho	35.3	26.2	32.6	31.7	32.4
Wyo.	46.8	27.7	40.3	43.2	41.4
Colo.	37.3	33.9	36.4	41.3	37.3
N. Mex.	34.8	30.0	33.6	40.4	35.7
Ariz.	42.3	27.3	38.9	37.0	37.8
Utah	32.8	24.6	30.3	26.8	29.8
Nev.	37.1	21.4	32.5	36.4	33.4
Mount.	36.5	29.2	34.4	37.9	35.6
Wash.	27.0	26.6	26.9	27.3	27.1
Oreg.	29.7	28.0	29.3	29.0	29.3
Calif.	34.4	33.9	34.3	40.5	38.8
Pac.	30.7	29.9	30.6	39.0	35.3
U. S.	33.3	29.1	32.0	34.1	32.7

1/ Includes as "other family" only those farm household members working 15 hours or more per week without receiving cash wages.

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